

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

### The Literature for Fourth Quarter

All orders for Quarterlies to date have been filled and others are being filled as rapidly as they come in. The first two numbers of *Cheering Words*, dated October 2 and 9, have also been mailed. Four numbers of *Our Little Folks*, dated October 2, 9, 16, and 23, were mailed last Monday.

### The Annual for 1899

Thus far we have received but two requests from our ministers for changes of address in the Annual for 1899. All ministers, whether pastors or not, are earnestly requested to send us their names and addresses just as they want them to appear in the coming Annual. The Annual of 1898 will be used as a basis in making up the ministerial list, and no changes will be made unless requested. The Indiana Conference will correct the list for that State. The Annual will be ready the latter part of the month of November.

### Obituary Notices

In preparing notices for the paper, please be as brief as possible. It is seldom necessary to give the names of friends outside the family in which the death occurred. Where resolutions are prepared they should be few and brief. Poetry is not desirable. Let the large and the beautiful and the useful things be given to the living. The dead have no need of them.

### Query Department

Our readers will observe that the Query Department has been revived. It appears on editorial page this week, but hereafter it will appear regularly in some other part of the paper. We have on hand a number of queries and no doubt writers supposed they had gone to the waste basket, but not so: they have been preserved and will now receive attention. We shall be glad to have our readers send in such queries the answers to which will furnish real information and prove helpful in their work.

### Unwise Satan

Satan is often set forth as a being of wonderful cunning, a wise old serpent, who rarely fails to adopt the most effective means for the accomplishment of his purposes. But history disputes his claim to practical wisdom. How much, for example, has he advanced his kingdom by the grand policy of persecution which he for ages employed

against God's people. He imprisoned Paul in Rome, doubtless hoping thus to put an end to his active missionary enterprise, his going everywhere, preaching the gospel, but from that dungeon issue seven of the Apostle's thirteen epistles. Long afterward he claps John Bunyan in jail and behold there comes forth that wonderful allegory, the incomparable Pilgrim's Progress. Both these men of God did far more for the cause of righteousness, dealt a far heavier blow against the bulwarks of Satan, than they could possibly have done if left at liberty. Stone walls and stern guards kept them in one place long enough to write down the vision, and leave a legacy of light and life and salvation to all the generations to come.

### The Switch Tender

The old switch tender was fast asleep. He was drowsy. He was careless. He nodded neglectfully. He now slumbers. And the train is coming! It is rushing round the curve, shrieking above, thundering below, and he is rubbing open his stupid eyes! Too late now! He springs for the switch that would have rightly set the rails, but the heavy train has already reached the wrong track, and it is crashing on to destruction. There is a lesson for you, Sabbath school teacher, pastor, parent and Christian. A train is coming. Boys and girls, full of vitality, rushing toward temptation. Shift the rails, head them toward honesty, purity, heaven, God and Christ. Do not fold your hands, close your eyes and slumber when a train is coming on the wrong track. Brother, awaken, arouse from your slumbers. Humanity is rushing on to destruction, and the church must raise its warning cry and move the switch so as to direct the train toward the haven of eternal rest. Are you awake brother? If not you may not have heard what we said. Read it.

### A Real Hero

"He that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that he that taketh a city." There are the Shafers, and the Miles, and the Hobsons, and the Deweys for you, and yet no frantic crowds are running after them and howling themselves hoarse, and make demigods of them. These unseen and unheard heroes would not tolerate such laudation for a moment. They fight desperate battles, they endure untold suffering, they bear years of affliction in sweet and uncomplaining patience, they gain victories over principalities and powers; conflicts, labors, sorrows, dis-

appointments, discouragements, temptations, beat upon their devoted heads like a continuous tempest. They endure all, suffer all, triumph over all, unseen and unrecognized by the world. Hail, mighty heroes of obscurity and silence, heroes of the soul, of whom the world is not worthy.

### Being and Doing

An important element in the Christian life is *doing*, and yet it is not the first nor the most important; before doing there must be *being*. The doing will count for very little without the being. Dr. J. R. Miller very truthfully says: "The best part in a Christian life is not in what it does, but in what it is—the quiet light that shines out in the character; not the service rendered, but the love that is in the service and inspires it; not the work that is done, but the motive that makes the work sacred. Oftimes there is a holier, softer, whiter light that streams out in the joyous submission of the believer, in loss, sorrow or pain, than ever there was in the life in the days of greatest activity, when large things were achieved, when hard battles were fought. Light is life's truest and best expression."

### The Church Irritant

We have all heard much about the church militant and the church triumphant, but just at present religious papers are discussing the church irritant. We know of no such organization but we do know of members of the church militant whose membership might, without any incongruity, be transferred to such an organization. Brother, does this mean you?

### How They Die

A denominational author has published a volume entitled, "How Our Preachers Die." It would perhaps be just as pertinent and a little more useful to inquire, "How They Live," or "How They Preach." Dying is not the most important business we have in this world, if indeed it is any of our business at all. The Master said, "He that believeth in me shall never die." When we believe, we enter into life, and that life is not terminated or even interrupted by the brief interval which we call death. A testimony of life therefore is far more pertinent than a testimony of death, though the latter undoubtedly has its value. The repentant thief on the cross witnessed a good confession at the last moment, but his previous life had been a bad one all the same, devoid of either comfort or